

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).
 2. (canceled).
 3. (canceled).
 4. (currently amended): A dispersion compensating optical fiber, which, when operated in at least a wavelength which is selected from 1.53 μm to 1.63 μm , exhibits the following:
 - a bending loss of 5 dB/m or lower with a 20-mm bending diameter, a wavelength dispersion of -120 ps/nm/km or lower, an absolute value of the wavelength dispersion per a unit loss of 200 ps/nm/dB or higher, a cut-off wavelength for used length and used condition of 1.53 μm or lower, an outer diameter of a cladding of 80 μm to 100 μm , an outer diameter of a coating of 160 μm to 200 μm , said dispersion compensating, optical fiber comprising:
 - a center core section;
 - an intermediate core section, disposed on ~~the~~ an outer periphery of the center core section;
 - a ring core section, disposed on ~~the~~ an outer periphery of the intermediate core section;
 - and
 - a cladding, disposed on ~~the~~ an outer periphery of the ring core section;
- wherein

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the relative refractive index difference of the center core section with respect to the cladding is about 1.6% to 2.6%;

~~the~~ a relative refractive index difference of the intermediate core section with respect to the cladding is about 0.30% to 1.4%;

~~the~~ a relative refractive index of the ring core section with respect to the cladding is about 0.30% to 1.0%;

~~the~~ a ratio of the outer radius of the intermediate core section to the outer radius of the center core section is about 1.5 to 3.5;

~~the~~ a ratio of the outer radius of the ring core section to the outer radius of the intermediate core section is about 1.2 to 2.0, and

the radius of the core is about 4 μm to 8 μm .

5. (canceled).

6. (canceled).

7. (canceled).

8. (canceled).

9. (canceled).

10. (canceled).

11. (previously presented): The dispersion compensating optical fiber according to claim 4, wherein, when operated in at least a wavelength which is selected from 1.53 μm to 1.63 μm :

the bending loss is about 5 dB/m or lower when it is wound by a 20 mm bending diameter,

the wavelength dispersion is about -120 ps/nm/km or lower,

the absolute value of the wavelength dispersion per a unit loss is about 200 ps/nm/dB or higher,

the cut-off wavelength for used length and used condition is about 1.53 μm or lower,

the outer diameter of the cladding is about 80 μm to 100 μm ,

the outer diameter of the coating is about 160 μm to 200 μm , and

a viscosity of a surface of a coating resin is about 10 gf/mm or lower.

12. (currently amended): The dispersion ~~compensating~~ compensating optical fiber according to claim 4, wherein a viscosity of an outer surface of the coating resin of the dispersion compensating optical fiber is about 10 gf/mm or lower.

13. (previously presented): The dispersion compensating optical fiber according to claim 4, wherein:

a Young's modulus of a first coating layer, which is disposed on an outer periphery of the cladding, is about 0.15 kgf/mm^2 or lower,

a thickness of the first coating layer is about $20 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $30 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$,

a Young's modulus of a second coating layer, which is disposed on an outer periphery of the first coating layer, is about 50 kgf/mm^2 or higher, and

a thickness of the second coating layer is about $15 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $30 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

17. (previously presented): The dispersion compensating optical fiber according to claim 4, wherein, in at least a wavelength which is selected from $1.53 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $1.57 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$, a quotient, which is obtained by dividing the dispersion slope by the wavelength dispersion, is about 0.0026 nm^{-1} to 0.010 nm^{-1} .

18. (previously presented): The dispersion compensating optical fiber according to claim 4, wherein, in at least a wavelength which is selected from $1.53 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $1.57 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$, a quotient, which is obtained by dividing the dispersion slope by the wavelength dispersion, is about 0.0026 nm^{-1} to 0.041 nm^{-1} .

19. (previously presented): : The dispersion compensating optical fiber according to claim 4, wherein, in at least a wavelength which is selected from $1.57 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $1.63 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$, a quotient, which is obtained by dividing the dispersion slope by the wavelength dispersion, is about 0.0022 nm^{-1} to 0.010 nm^{-1} .

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20. (currently amended): The ~~dispersion~~ dispersion compensating optical fiber according to claim 4, wherein, in at least a wavelength which is selected from 1.57 μm to 1.63 μm , a quotient, which is obtained by dividing the dispersion slope by the wavelength dispersion, is about 0.0022 nm^{-1} to 0.0035 nm^{-1} .